



**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT**

**PROCLAMATION**

**“APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH”**

**WHEREAS,** our children are our most valuable resources and are vital to the future success, prosperity, and quality of life of American Samoa. Today, they are also our most vulnerable citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** every child deserves a safe, stable, and nurturing home in communities they need to foster their healthy growth and development; and

**WHEREAS,** 321 reports were made to child protective services in 2021-2022; and

**WHEREAS,** child abuse and neglect is a serious problem that affects every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

**WHEREAS,** child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

**WHEREAS,** protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

**WHEREAS,** effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement, and families; and

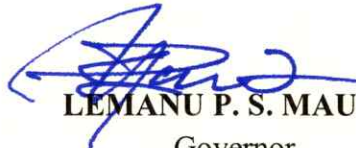
**WHEREAS,** communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

**WHEREAS,** we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

**WHEREAS,** prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, LEMANU P. S. MAUGA,** Governor of the Territory of American Samoa, do hereby proclaim the Month of April 2023 as **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH** in our Territory. I call upon everyone in American Samoa to observe this month by joining together to promote the safety and well-being of all children and families, to honor the strength and resilience of adult survivors of child abuse, and to recognize the child-welfare workforce and allies who work tirelessly to protect our children.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto affixed my signature and the Seal of my office on this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-three.



**LEMANU P. S. MAUGA**  
Governor